CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1   1.   A system for use in routing calls within a telephone network, comprising:

2   a service control point (SCP) operative to receive a local number portability

3   (LNP) query from a switch, where the LNP query is associated with a call

4   from a subscriber to a first service provider;

5   an intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC) unit operable to provide

6   routing directions for the call;

7   where the SCP is further operative to direct the LNP query to the intelligent traffic

8   routing and control unit when the call is a data call and not when the call is

9   a voice call.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, where the routing directions comprise a Local

2   Routing Number.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the routing directions direct the call to an

2   access server operated by the first service provider.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the access server is chosen based on a type

2   of service associated with the subscriber.

1   5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises X2.

1   6.   The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises K56Flex.

1   7.   The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises ISDN.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the the routing directions direct the call to

2   a trunk group connecting an access server operated by the first service provider and the

3   switch.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the the routing directions direct the call to

2   an access server operated by a second service provider.

1   10.   A method of routing calls within a telephone network, comprising:

2   receiving a local number portability (LNP) query from a switch, where the LNP

3   query is associated with a call from a subscriber to a first service provider;

4   directing the LNP query to an intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC)

5   unit when the call is a data call and not when the call is a voice call; and

6   providing routing directions for the call.

1   11. The method of claim 10, where providing routing directions for the call

2 further comprises:

3   providing routing directions which direct the call to an access server operated by

4   the first service provider.

1   12. The method of claim 10, where providing routing directions for the call

.2 further comprises:

3   providing routing directions which direct the call to a trunk group connecting the

4   switch and an access server operated by the first service provider.

1   13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 evaluating resources available at the first service provider.

1   14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2 identifying a preferred access server operated by the first service provider,

3   responsive to evaluating resources available at the first service provider.

1   15. An apparatus comprising:

2   a service package manager operative to receive a Local Number Portability (LNP)

3   query from a switch, the LNP query associated with a call from a

4   subscriber to a first service provider, the service package manager further

5   operative to determine a call type of the call;

6   a intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC) unit operative to generate a

7   LNP response if the call type is a data call;

8   a LNP processing unit operative to generate a LNP response the the call type is

9   not a data call.

1   16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the call type is determined by

2 comparing a Called Party Addres field in the LNP query with telephone numbers in a

3 database.

1   17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP response generated by the

2 INTRAC unit contains the Local Routing Number of a preferred access server operated

3 by the first service provider.

1   18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the INTRAC unit is a service package

2 application.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP processing unit is a service

2   package application.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP processing unit and the

2   INTRAC unit share the same Sub-System Number and the same translation type.